

Tab: Minutes

Next Meeting: November 5, 2003

10:00 a.m. – Thorburn Center - Ingham ISD (Rooms B and C)

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of October 1, 2003, Meeting

10:00 a.m.

Present: Greg Bodrie, Kathleen Clegg, Patt Clement, Cheryl Ervin, Janice Fialka, Elaine High, Ric Hogerheide, Jill Jacobs, Patricia Keller, Jim Kubiako, Paul Kubicek, Peggy McNeilly, Pam Mish, Sue Rabidoux, Anne Richardson, Debs Roush, Deb Russell, Steve Schwartz, Jeff Siegel, Larry Simpson, Debbie Todd, Don Trap, Randall VanGasse, Colette Ward
Ex-Officio members: David Brock (for Jacquelyn Thompson), Mark Larson, Rosanne Renauer, Michele Robinson

Absent: Pansy Coleman, Nancy Jackson, Shari Krishnan, Lois Lofton-Doniver

OSE/EIS Staff: Fran Loose, Patti Oates-Ulrich

Guests: Erika Betts, Sharon Dietrich, LaDean George, Marge Joslin, Sandi Laham, Christine Lerchen, Phyllis Cox Rebori, Steve Wessels, Jon Wurdock

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Larry Simpson.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Introduction of Guests

Guests attending the meeting were introduced.

Amend/Approve Proposed Agenda

Nancy Stanley will give an update on pending ISD legislation as an information item. Under Future Agenda Items, Lunch Enrichment Sessions will be discussed.

The agenda of the October 1, 2003, meeting was considered. Randy VanGasse moved, seconded by Ric Hogerheide, to approve the agenda as written. The motion carried.

Amend/Approve Minutes

The minutes of the June 4, 2003, meeting were considered. Ric Hogerheide moved, seconded by Peggy McNeilly, to approve the minutes as amended. The motion carried.

Public Comment

Cheryl Ervin requested assistance with a situation involving a student that was in her school last year. Larry Simpson suggested SEAC members who have input to share with Cheryl discuss the matter during lunch.

Chairperson's Report – Larry Simpson

A. Review of Retreat

Larry Simpson expressed gratitude to everyone who worked to put the retreat together. He reported that evaluations reflected positive feedback. During this year of transition, he stated he is looking forward to modeling the type of dialogue that allows for expression of thought as well as heart.

David Brock clarified that ad hoc committee work regarding federal monitoring is not required; it is optional. Larry elaborated, saying that volunteering for this work is above and beyond the normal SEAC commitment and will require additional investment of time.

B. Subcommittee Membership

Larry listed subcommittee membership as assigned. Assignments were made honoring preferences expressed at the retreat as much as possible while maintaining balanced membership among the subcommittees. Sue Rabidoux requested a summary of the goals of each subcommittee and Fran Loose explained what each committee would be working on at today's meeting.

State Department Report – David Brock

Jacquelyn Thompson was called into a meeting with a representative of the Governor's office this morning. David Brock will serve as her alternate for SEAC until Dr. Thompson can arrive for the afternoon subcommittee meetings.

Fran Loose reported that a conference call between the Continuous Improvement Monitoring Process Steering Committee (CIMP) and the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) took place last month in preparation for an onsite visit to evaluate how the Department is meeting its general supervision requirements. The onsite visit was originally scheduled for October, but OSEP moved it to November. Meanwhile, OSEP is conducting a desk audit before their visit.

Discussion followed.

David Brock reported that today is the last day of public comment for changes in the Proposed Administrative Rules for Special Education, Early On® Michigan Record Review Standards, Michigan School for the Deaf Operations Procedures and Technical Assistance for Frequently Asked Questions. Five hearings have been held; they were lightly attended. David outlined the path to getting the new procedures and guidelines finalized. More time is needed for approval of rule changes. A summary of public comment for the rules not discussed today should be ready in January.

Discussion followed.

As of September 31, 2003, seven people submitted comment on the Michigan School for the Deaf Proposed Program Description and Operational Procedures. David distributed copies of the document, with recommended adjustments made by Beth Steenwyk, administrator at MSD, based on public comment.

Discussion followed. Debs Roush moved, seconded by Ric Hogerheide, to move discussion of the document to the General Supervision subcommittee. The motion carried.

The grant to intermediate school districts for coordination of transition services is being re-designed. On October 7 in East Lansing, there will be a meeting of transition coordinators working at ISDs as well as some of their colleagues. The preliminary goal is to get better data about student outcomes.

It was recommended through Continuous Improvement Monitoring that the system for due process hearings go to a single tier magistrate system. Other states were surveyed about their systems. A group was formed, including some volunteers from SEAC, to review the information from other states and review a preliminary proposal for the design of Michigan's system. They will meet on October 27. Those SEAC members who volunteered to serve in this group have been notified via email whether or not they are needed for this work.

The federal law known as No Child Left Behind requires that all teachers be highly qualified in the core subject areas in which they teach by the 2005-06 school year. The Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services has been working through Ms. Roberta Stanley, MDE's federal legislation liaison, to provide input to Congress regarding "highly qualified special education teachers" in the reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Recently, several organizations, including the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE), submitted a proposal as an IDEA State Coalition recommending changes to Senate Bill 1248 regarding highly qualified teachers. Their proposal would define Michigan's special education teachers as being highly qualified with a Michigan teaching certificate and an endorsement in special education. A special education teacher at the middle or secondary level would have either a major in the core content area of instruction, OR a special education teacher certificate with an endorsement in special education AND the students with disabilities have access to consultative services with general education teachers who are deemed highly qualified in the core content area, OR the teacher has passed a competency exam in the core content area. For teachers providing instruction in a core content area to middle or secondary school students performing at the elementary level, the qualifications would be a Michigan teaching certificate with a special education endorsement.

The last provision of this proposed language for Senate Bill 1248 reads, "Provisions of this subsection are not subject to the procedural safeguard provisions in Section 615 of this Act."

State Board Meeting Report – David Brock

At the June meeting, the State Board directed Department staff, with assistance from the SEAC, to prepare a draft position paper on Universal Education that will include principles of statutory alignment as well as values and vision for education of all students, including diverse learners. Progress on this effort was reviewed at the September 25 meeting. The group who will work on this with Dr. Thompson will be identified in October.

Reginald Turner was appointed to the Board by the Governor to replace Sharon Gire, who recently resigned. His first meeting was in September.

At the October Board meeting, two ISD Plans are scheduled for approval.

Information Items

A. Pending ISD Reform Legislation

David Brock introduced Nancy Stanley, a lobbyist with the Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators (MAISA). Nancy summarized several pending bills on ISD reform. She provided a handout outlining each bill and whether MAISA supports or opposes them. There are three hearings scheduled, one has already taken place in Ottawa County. Nancy encouraged SEAC members to attend the hearings to both learn about the legislation and express their views. Notice of the hearings can be found at www.michiganlegislature.org.

Discussion followed.

Don Trap moved that SEAC oppose HB 4338 and 4935. Steve Schwartz suggested assigning the determination to subcommittee for further discussion and research instead. Discussion followed. Don withdrew his motion.

Deb Russell moved, seconded by Don Trap, that SEAC express to the Board its opposition to any legislation that would result in the abolition of Intermediate School Districts and that SEAC determine at the November their position on the bills. Discussion followed. Deb withdrew her motion.

Cheryl Ervin moved, seconded by Kathleen Clegg, to assign the item to the General Supervision committee for feedback and recommendations. Discussion followed. The motion carried.

Action Items

None

Ex-Officio Reports

Institutions of Higher Education — Mark Larson - None

Michigan Department of Community Health — Doug Nurenberg - None

Michigan Department of Career Development/Rehabilitation Services — Rosanne Renauer - None

Family Independence Agency — Lee Martin - None

Committee Reports

None

Member Issues

The Committee was surveyed about their access to technology. Index cards were passed out so each member could report individually whether they have internet access, whether they use a Mac or a PC, and if the cost of printing items sent over the listserv is an issue.

Deb Russell stated the agenda that is mailed to members to aid in preparation for the meeting does not give much information as it is usually very general and gets heavily edited. She suggested finding a way to make the agenda more indicative of what will occur the day of the meeting.

Steve Schwartz mentioned members should be careful when replying to listserv messages so that messages directed to only one person don't go to the entire listserv.

Jill Jacobs supplied pamphlets on the parent advocacy group that she and her husband started for parents of children with special needs in Christian schools.

Paul Kubicek announced the MALDE 30th annual conference, taking place on October 9-11 at Boyne Highlands.

Elaine High announced that the LDA conference would be October 26-28 at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing.

Future Agenda Items:

Larry Simpson suggested scheduling Lunch Enrichment Sessions again this year, specifically on No Child Left Behind. Deb Russell suggested not having the sessions at every meeting, but only as needed. Mark Larson requested reports from Department staff on their work related to subcommittee work. Larry announced that the Executive Committee would plan Lunch Enrichment Sessions only if and when important issues related to SEAC arise.

Peggy McNeilly, seconded by Patt Clement, moved to adjourn. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned to subcommittee meetings.

Amanda Whitehead
Recording Secretary

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Executive Committee
Minutes of October 1, 2003, Meeting
8:45 a.m.

Present: Patt Clement, Ric Hogerheide, Sandi Laham, Fran Loose, Pam Mish, Patti Oates-Ulrich, Debs Roush, Larry Simpson, Randall VanGasse

Absent: Shari Krishnan, Jacquelyn Thompson

Review of Today's Agenda

The Executive Committee reviewed the Committee of the Whole agenda. David Brock outlined what would be discussed in his State Department Report at the Committee of the Whole.

Nancy Stanley will arrive at 11:00 am to report on Pending ISD Reform Legislation as an Information Item.

Debs Roush requested that Larry discuss subcommittee membership as part of the Chairperson's Report.

Future Agenda Development

Fran Loose summarized a presentation on CIMP/CIFMS for next month's meeting that covered the process behind it, including Design for Results. Debs Roush suggested covering the implications and impact of the CIMP work as well. Debs, Pam Mish, and Larry Simpson will incorporate Fran's information and their experiences with CIMP into a presentation for the November meeting.

Debs Roush expressed interest in scheduling Lunch Enrichment Sessions this year. Larry Simpson suggested a presentation on No Child Left Behind. The Executive Committee will survey the Committee of the Whole for subjects of interest for future Lunch Enrichment Sessions.

State Department Report

David summarized the State Department Report when outlining suggested changes to today's agenda.

Subcommittee Reports

None